

This legislation is sorely needed. Many major cities along the Great Lakes do not have the infrastructure needed to divert sewage overflows during times of heavy rainfall. In 2004, the city of Milwaukee dumped 1.6 billion gallons of sewage into Lake Michigan. Sewage pollutes our waters and poses grave health risks to people exposed to it. It also results in beach closings.

Although there was no direct correlation between Milwaukee's sewage dumping and the closing of Chicago-area beaches in 2004, Cook County beach closings nearly tripled from 213 in 2003 to 613 in 2004. I am particularly concerned over the 150 beach day closings in my congressional district in 2004, the latest year tracked. This trend is echoed throughout the Great Lakes region and is one we need to reverse.

Protecting our Great Lakes is one of my top priorities in the Congress. As an original cosponsor of both the Great Lakes Restoration Act and the Save Our Water from Sewage Act, I favor a broad approach to addressing needs in the region. However, we must also move forward with tailored approaches to fix specific problems as we continue to push for more comprehensive reform. I am proud to introduce this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes, and hope my colleagues will support me in ensuring that these important resources become free from the threat of sewage pollution.

#### TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE COLONEL GARRETT HARENCAK

#### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of U.S. Air Force Colonel Garrett Harencak and I wish him good luck as he makes a permanent change of station to Air Combat Command.

Colonel Harencak commanded the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas from August 2003 to July 2006. Throughout his service at Dyess, he has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for base personnel while providing combat-ready B-1 aircraft, crews and combat support for the United States military.

His tenure in the Big Country is markedly impressive. Team Dyess has won over 40 organizational and individual awards since 2003. Earlier this year, Dyess became the first bomb wing in 13 years to receive an overall outstanding rating following an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection. In addition, Dyess has received more energy awards than any other military base in the Nation.

Furthermore, Colonel Harencak and his wife, Tanya, were the privileged recipients of the ACC level of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award for 2006. This distinguished award recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the Nation, the Air Force and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

Colonel Harencak truly demonstrates what it means to be a great principal of our country. He has served the Air Force, the men and

women of Team Dyess, and the local Abilene community proudly. There is no doubt in my mind that Colonel Harencak has contributed significantly to defending freedom and saving lives. I also know that, as a result of his leadership Dyess will flourish. And it will remain one of our Nation's most important bases for years to come.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend Colonel Harencak for his dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best of luck in his next assignment at Air Combat Command.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF KEARNEY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the city of Kearney, Missouri. The city of Kearney has long played a vital role as one of the most outstanding communities in Missouri and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Kearney in 1856.

Kearney was originally settled under the name of Centerville and was first laid out by David T. Duncan and W.A. Cave in the spring of 1856. Eleven years later in 1867, the city of Kearney was again laid out by John Lawrence and was incorporated as a town or village by the Clay County Court April 5, 1869. Kearney was vital to the growth and development of Clay County in those early days as a major thoroughfare for the railroads and that growth and development continues to this day.

As the original birthplace of the infamous outlaw Jesse James, today Kearney has embraced its heritage as a fixture of the Old West and holds the wildly popular Jesse James Festival each year. The festival is just one event among the numerous activities that makes Kearney a wonderful place to work and raise a family. Kearney remains an economic and social focal point of Clay County, bringing in families throughout the country to this historic area and welcoming businesses that are seeking a friendly and vibrant community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the achievements of Kearney, Missouri, over the past 150 years. Kearney is a wonderful community and its future will surely be as bright as the past 150 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent such a fine community in the United States Congress.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT OF 2006

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania and I are introducing the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006. We are joined by a bipartisan group of original cosponsors, a complete list of which follows this statement.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000, the TBI Act is designed to promote

sound and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, research, education, treatment and community-based services and supports for individuals living with a TBI and their families. The Act also encourages basic and translational scientific research.

It is the only Federal law that specifically addresses the issues faced by persons with brain injury.

As a founding co-chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have witnessed first hand how these programs make a difference in people's lives and have worked to educate your colleagues on the enormous impact traumatic brain injury has on our society.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a leading cause of death and disability in young Americans. Approximately 1.4 million Americans experience TBI each year. Every 21 seconds, one person in the United States sustains a traumatic brain injury. About half of these cases result in at least short-term disability, and 50,000 people die as a result of their injuries. Every year about 80,000 people sustain severe brain injuries leading to long term disability.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans are living with long term, severe disability as a result of brain injury. The national cost is estimated at more than \$60 billion annually.

Individuals with TBI account for 2 percent of the total US population and represent nearly 10 percent of our Nation's disability population.

The statistics involving brain injury are increasing even more now that reports show that traumatic brain injuries account for 14 percent to 20 percent of casualties for those who survive combat in Iraq. Despite the staggering statistics, TBI remains the "silent epidemic" in this country.

In fact, the annual incidence and prevalence of TBI is higher than breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and HIV/AIDS combined. Despite these staggering statistics, TBI remains a silent epidemic plaguing our Nation.

Traumatic Brain Injury is a unique issue. An epidemic so vast it is almost overwhelming and so personal its effects defy definition. It is a global health problem and there is no cure.

For 10 years, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act has successfully provided direction and legal authority for the vast traumatic brain injury community. The Act was not designed to provide direct care to persons with TBI, but rather, to inform. Before the TBI Act, the State governments were left basically on their own. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants have helped states to improve access to health and other services for persons with TBI. Prior to the 1996 law, they did not have the tools to even assess their own needs.

Thanks to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we now have a record of incidents including details and prevalence, plans for prevention, and finally, access to treatment. We have also begun to educate the public and provide much needed scientific data for our scientists, healthcare providers and policy makers.

In 1998, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a report on the rehabilitation of persons with brain injury. The consensus was that more research was needed so the NIH established brain injury centers all over the country.